

Potato Stocks



Statistical Reporting Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C. 20250

RELEASED: December 14, 1984
3:00 P.M. ET

For subscribers of "POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES"

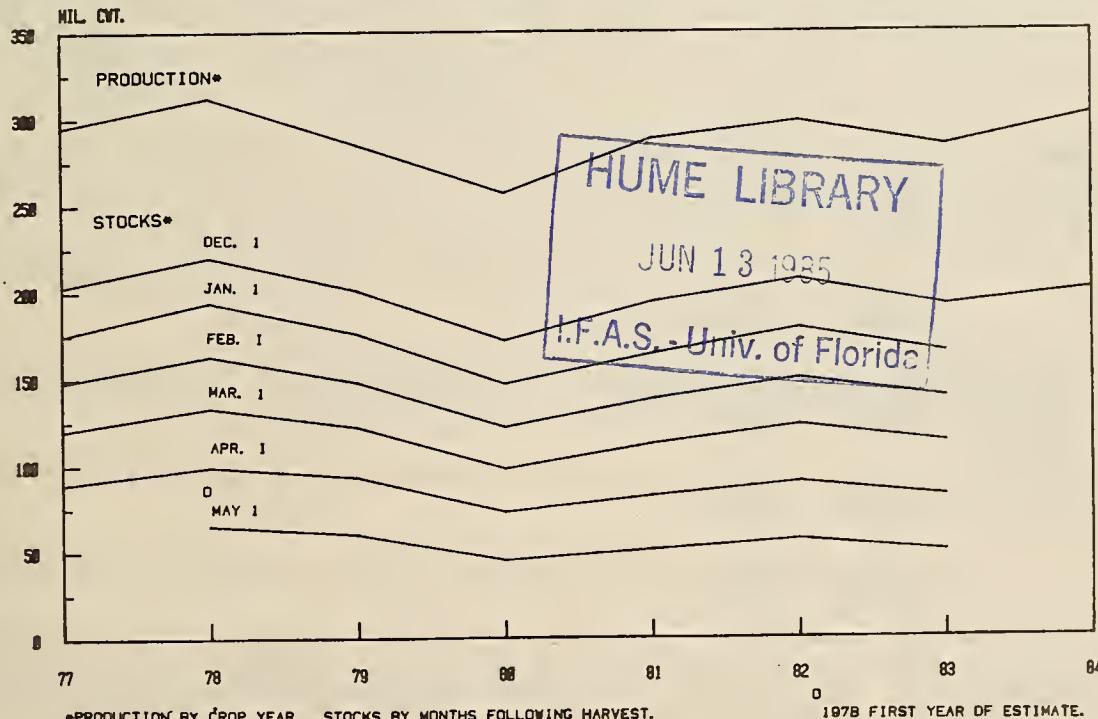
POTATO STOCKS UP 5 PERCENT

December 1, 1984 potato stocks total 201 million cwt for the 15 States making stocks estimates. This is up 5 percent from 1983 but 3 percent below 1982 holdings. Stocks account for 67 percent of fall production this year compared with 68 percent last year. Russets are the major type stored. In the 11 objective yield States, 72 percent are russets; 25 percent whites and 3 percent reds.

The three Eastern States holdings total 26.4 million cwt, the same as last year but 19 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks at 17.2 million cwt are down 6 percent while New York and Pennsylvania show gains of 11 and 19 percent, respectively.

(Comments continued on page 7)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all*
* purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other *
* losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall*
* potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 per- *
* cent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home *
* use account for the remaining 10 percent. *

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

CROP YEAR	: : : : : : : : : : :	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
: : : : : : : : : : :								
1,000 CWT								
1974	:	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	:	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	:	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	:	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	:	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	:	284,940	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	:	256,518	172,030	147,010	122,065	97,680	72,660	44,546
1981	:	287,710	193,610	164,380	137,820	111,780	82,270	50,760
1982	:	298,031	206,525	178,980	150,200	122,500	90,105	57,305
1983	:	284,344	192,150	165,330	138,900	112,730	81,740	50,365
1984	:	302,495	201,335					

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1983 AND 1984 CROPS

STATE	: : : : : : : : : : :	STORAGE	TO	TO	TO	TO	TO	TO	ENTIRE
		SEASON	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	SEASON
: : : : : : : : : : :									
1,000 CWT									
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	:	1983-84	15,755	20,445	24,785	29,540	35,155	40,640	53,810
	:	1984-85	19,000						
MAINE 2/	:	1983-84	1,160	1,745	2,260	2,780	3,370	3,970	5,125
	:	1984-85	1,630						
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	:	1983-84	16,245	19,920	23,690	28,250	33,280	37,455	45,800
	:	1984-85	20,745						
OTHER STATES 3/	:	1983-84	4,305	6,005	7,755	9,600	11,615	13,400	16,320
	:	1984-85	5,695						
TOTAL	:	1983-84	37,465	48,115	58,490	70,170	83,420	95,465	121,055
	:	1984-85	47,070						

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1983 AND DECEMBER 1, 1984

STATE	CROP OF 1983			CROP OF 1984		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL	DEC 1	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL	DEC 1
	STOCKS	STOCKS	AS % OF	STOCKS	STOCKS	AS % OF
	DEC 1, 1983	PRODUCTION:	AS % OF 1983	DEC 1, 1984	PRODUCTION:	AS % OF 1984
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	7,790	5,400	69	7,280	4,725	65
COLO	13,950	10,500	75	17,225	12,550	73
IDAHO	85,990	61,500	72	86,600	61,500	71
MAINE	22,560	18,300	81	21,360	17,200	81
MICH	9,840	6,600	67	12,540	8,000	64
MINN	10,313	8,500	82	13,775	12,200	89
MONT	1,800	1,700	94	1,924	1,860	97
NEBR	2,025	1,400	69	2,240	1,900	85
N Y - L I	4,075	1,550	38	3,726	1,700	46
- UPSTATE	5,635	3,100	55	6,630	3,400	51
N DAK	20,480	15,000	73	20,615	15,300	74
OHIO	1,886	700	37	2,465	850	34
OREG	20,710	14,000	68	22,680	15,200	67
PA	4,300	3,400	79	5,160	4,050	78
WASH	54,080	29,500	55	56,925	29,600	52
WIS	18,910	11,000	58	21,350	11,300	53
15 STATE TOTAL :	284,344	192,150	68	302,495	201,335	67

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ESTIMATES

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of production and stocks estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is shown below. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the December 1 estimates and the final estimates as a percent of the final estimates and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1964-83 twenty year period; the square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current estimates relative to the final estimates, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimates are not different from those of recent years. For example, the "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 201 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.2 percent or approximately 4.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.7 percent or approximately 7.4 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1974-83) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 3.86 million cwt, ranging from 0.52 million to 6.25 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the December 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years for both production and stocks.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 FALL POTATO ESTIMATES

ESTIMATE	ROOT MEAN	TEN YEAR RECORD OF DIFFERENCE		
	SQUARE ERROR	BETWEEN DEC 1 AND FINAL ESTIMATE		
	90% CONFIDENCE	QUANTITY	NUMBER	
	PERCENT: LEVEL		OF YEARS	
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	: BELOW: ABOVE
	-----	-----	-----	: FINAL: FINAL
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	MIL CWT	MILLION CWT		
STOCKS	2.2	3.7	7.45	3.86 .52 6.25 : 9 1
PRODUCTION	1.6	2.8	8.74	4.75 1.63 6.68 : 9 1

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
DECEMBER 1, 1984, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			TOTAL
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	
PERCENT				
COLO	10		1/90	100
IDAHO			1/ 2/100	100
MAINE		69	31	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	12	60	28	100
N Y		2/ 3/100		100
N DAK	22	64	14	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		2/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	5	42	53	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	25	72	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

1984 POTATO OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY

The Statistical Reporting Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1984. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements from these fields just prior to and immediately after harvest.

The sample data from the objective yield surveys shown in tables 5 and 6 are presented to provide current information about the crop and are not official estimates.

TABLE 5: POTATOES: HARVEST LOSS BY TYPE OF POTATOES, 1983-84 1/

STATE AND YEAR		ROUND REDS		ROUND WHITES		RUSSETS		ALL TYPES
CWT PER ACRE								
COLO	1983	33		2/		32		32
	1984					18		18
IDAHO	1983		2/			28		28
	1984					26		26
MAINE	1983		2/		16		23	18
	1984				21		25	22
MICH	1983		2/		13		27	18
	1984				17		22	19
MINN	1983		26		30		38	32
	1984		25		22		22	23
N Y	1983		2/		20			20
	1984				20			20
N DAK	1983		18		22		32	22
	1984		28		29		27	30
OREG	1983			2/		17		17
	1984					15		15
PA	1983				15			15
	1984				20			20
WASH	1983					13		13
	1984		2/		2/		21	23
WIS	1983		16		15		22	20
	1984		14		14		18	16

1/ POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELD AT TIME OF HARVEST. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 6: POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE, BY TYPE, 1983-84 1/

STATE AND YEAR		ROUND REDS		ROUND WHITES		RUSSETS	
		NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. PER ACRE
COLO	1983	8	12,606	2/	2/	73	12,165
	1984	2/	2/	2/	2/	75	11,954
IDAHO	1983	2/	2/	11	13,055	307	12,731
	1984	2/	2/			320	12,610
MAINE	1983	2/	2/	124	12,566	47	8,743
	1984	2/	2/	118	14,156	59	9,097
MICH	1983	3	13,497	54	12,231	29	11,480
	1984			68	12,580	38	11,426
MINN	1983	25	11,207	64	10,171	44	10,480
	1984	32	10,310	49	9,623	41	11,239
N Y	1983	2/	2/	146	13,340		
	1984	2/	2/	119	12,893	3	13,446
N DAK	1983	47	10,793	112	10,078	17	9,868
	1984	36	10,499	92	10,024	8	10,102
OREG	1983			2/	2/	142	14,443
	1984	3	11,215	3	9,305	146	14,083
PA	1983			91	12,507		
	1984	2/	2/	89	12,391		
WASH	1983	2/	2/	3	13,426	171	14,428
	1984	2/	2/	4	14,720	160	14,317
WIS	1983	16	12,387	29	12,396	87	10,990
	1984	20	13,362	33	12,627	92	11,438

1/ BASED ON COUNTS FROM OBJECTIVE YIELD MEASUREMENTS. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

STATE	AREA PLANTED			AREA HARVESTED		
	1982	1983	1984	1982	1983	1984
1,000 ACRES						
CALIF	18.5	19.0	19.6	18.5	19.0	18.2
COLO	45.5	47.0	53.5	45.0	46.5	53.0
CONN	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.4
IDAHO-SW (10 COUNTIES)	25.0	25.0	28.0	25.0	25.0	28.0
-OTHER CO	305.0	290.0	302.0	297.0	287.0	297.0
IND	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.0
MAINE	107.0	95.0	94.0	106.0	94.0	89.0
MASS	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.4	2.9
MICH	41.0	43.0	45.0	39.0	41.0	44.0
MINN	71.0	70.5	77.1	64.0	62.5	72.5
MONT	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.4
NEBR	8.9	7.6	8.4	8.8	7.5	8.0
NEV	13.0	12.0	10.0	13.0	12.0	10.0
N Y - LONG ISLAND	19.3	16.5	14.0	19.0	16.3	13.8
- UPSTATE	26.0	25.5	26.0	25.0	24.5	25.5
N DAK	122.0	132.0	136.0	115.0	128.0	133.0
OHIO	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.0	9.2	9.3
OREG - MALHEUR CO	10.7	9.2	11.0	10.5	9.0	10.5
- OTHER CO	42.8	40.0	46.5	42.0	39.5	45.0
PA	22.0	22.0	22.0	21.0	21.5	21.5
R I	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.6
S DAK	11.0	15.5	15.0	10.0	15.4	13.0
UTAH	6.4	6.0	6.5	6.4	5.9	6.4
VT	.4	.4	.3	.4	.4	.3
WASH	110.0	104.0	116.0	110.0	104.0	115.0
WIS	66.0	63.0	62.0	64.5	62.0	61.0
WYO	5.5	3.6	3.3	5.4	3.5	2.0
TOTAL	1,106.0	1,074.4	1,124.0	1,073.8	1,051.5	1,093.3
YIELD						
	1982	1983	1984	1982	1983	1984
CWT						
1,000 CWT						
CALIF	410	410	400	7,585	7,790	7,280
COLO	285	300	325	12,825	13,950	17,225
CONN	205	190	225	369	266	315
IDAHO-SW (10 COUNTIES)	345	340	335	8,625	8,500	9,380
-OTHER CO	280	270	260	83,160	77,490	77,220
IND	280	200	250	924	600	750
MAINE	255	240	240	27,030	22,560	21,360
MASS	205	190	200	779	646	580
MICH	270	240	285	10,530	9,840	12,540
MINN	180	165	190	11,520	10,313	13,775
MONT	260	250	260	1,924	1,800	1,924
NEBR	265	270	280	2,332	2,025	2,240
NEV	315	310	330	4,095	3,720	3,300
N Y - LONG ISLAND	270	250	270	5,130	4,075	3,726
- UPSTATE	260	230	260	6,500	5,635	6,630
N DAK	150	160	155	17,250	20,480	20,615
OHIO	245	205	265	2,205	1,886	2,465
OREG - MALHEUR CO	370	370	360	3,885	3,330	3,780
- OTHER CO	410	440	420	17,220	17,380	18,900
PA	235	200	240	4,935	4,300	5,160
R I	240	225	230	720	630	598
S DAK	155	150	140	1,550	2,310	1,820
UTAH	225	230	270	1,440	1,357	1,728
VT	230	220	210	92	88	63
WASH	480	520	495	52,800	54,080	56,925
WIS	350	305	350	22,575	18,910	21,350
WYO	210	205	260	1,134	718	520
U S	288	280	286	309,134	294,679	312,169

Stocks in the six Central States totaling 49.6 million cwt are up 15 percent from last year and are 13 percent above December 1982. Holdings in Minnesota are up 44 percent; while Michigan stocks are up 21 percent from last year. North Dakota and Wisconsin are holding only 2 and 3 percent more stocks, respectively than last year.

The six Western States had 125 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1984, up 2 percent from a year earlier but 4 percent short of 1982 holdings. Present Idaho stocks at 61.5 million cwt are equal to last year; Washington stocks at 29.6 million are up fractionally, and Oregon storage of 15.2 million cwt is up 9 percent. Colorado's San Luis Valley storage was up 20 percent; but California registered 12 percent less when compared with last year.

Disappearance in the 15 stock States totaled 101 million cwt of potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. This included 16.1 million cwt of potatoes lost to dumping, grading, shrinkage, etc, compared with 14.0 million cwt last year.

Processing to December 1, 1984 totaled a record 47.1 million cwt in the eight major processing States, up 26 percent from last year.

FALL PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT

Production of fall potatoes in the U.S. is estimated at 312 million cwt (14.2 million metric tons), a gain of 6 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Harvested area totaled 1.09 million acres (442 thousand hectares), up 4 percent from last year and 2 percent above 1982. The average yield was 286 cwt per acre, up 6 cwt from last year, but 2 cwt short of the 1982 record high.

In the seven Eastern States, production is set at 38.4 million cwt, 1 percent above last year, but 16 percent below 1982. Acreage harvested at 157 thousand was 4 percent below last year continuing a downward slide for the region. Average yield came in at 245 cwt per acre, a gain of 12 cwt over last year. Production in Maine at 21.4 million cwt was down 5 percent from last year. New York output of 10.4 million cwt gained 7 percent; while Pennsylvania production of 5.2 million cwt was up 20 percent.

The eight Central States produced 75.6 million cwt of potatoes this year, a jump of 14 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1982. Acreage for harvest at 344 thousand swelled 5 percent, while average yields at 220 cwt per acre were up 9 percent. Michigan growers produced 12.5 million cwt, up 27 percent from last year. Wisconsin output of 21.4 million cwt was up 13 percent. Minnesota and North Dakota production gained 34 and 1 percent respectively, although Red River Valley harvest was beset with dry, cloddy soils and heavy potato bruising.

In the nine Western States, production totaled 198 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year and 2 percent above 1982. Harvested acreage at 593 thousand acres was up 6 percent; while the average yield of 334 cwt per acre was 2 percent below last year. Yields were below last year in each of the Pacific Northwest States (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) but not enough to offset their acreage increases. Idaho production of 86.6 million cwt was up nearly 1 percent from last year; Washington harvest of 56.9 million cwt gained 5 percent; and Oregon output hit 22.7 million cwt, up 10 percent. These three States ranked 1, 2, and 3 respectively, this year in National production of fall potatoes.

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